

REMARKS

This amendment is being filed in response to the Office Action having a mailing date of September 19, 2007. Various claims are rewritten to independent form, amended, and canceled, as will be explained below. New claims 32-35 have been added. No new matter has been added. With this amendment, claims 4-13, 17-21, 23-28, and 30-35 are pending in the application.

I. Allowable subject matter

The Office Action indicated that claims 4-5, 7-9, 13, 17-18, 20-21, 25, and 31 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. The Examiner is thanked for this indication of allowable subject matter.

Accordingly, dependent claim 4 is rewritten in independent form to include the limitations of its base claims 1-3, with claims 1-3 now canceled herein without prejudice. Claims 5-13 are amended to change their dependency to newly independent claim 4 and/or to make their recitations consistent with claim 4. New claim 35 is dependent upon newly independent claim 4. In view of the rewriting of claim 4 to independent form, it is respectfully submitted that claim 4 and its dependent claims are in condition for allowance.

Dependent claim 17 is rewritten in independent form to include the limitations of its base claims 14-16, with claims 14-16 now canceled herein without prejudice. Claims 18-21 are amended as shown to change their dependency to newly independent claim 17 and/or to make their recitations consistent with claim 17. New claim 34 is dependent upon newly independent claim 17. In view of the rewriting of claim 17 to independent form, it is respectfully submitted that claim 17 and its dependent claims are in condition for allowance.

Dependent claim 25 is rewritten in independent form to include the limitations of its base claim 22, with claim 22 now canceled herein without prejudice. Claims 23-24 and 26-28 are amended to change their dependency to newly independent claim 25 and/or to make their recitations consistent with claim 25. New claim 33 is dependent upon newly independent claim

25. In view of the rewriting of claim 25 to independent form, it is respectfully submitted that claim 25 and its dependent claims are in condition for allowance.

Dependent claim 31 is rewritten in independent form to include the limitations of its base claim 29, with claim 29 now canceled herein without prejudice. Claim 30 is amended to change its dependency to newly independent claim 31 and/or to make its recitations consistent with claim 31. New claim 32 is dependent upon newly independent claim 31. In view of the rewriting of claim 31 to independent form, it is respectfully submitted that claim 31 and its dependent claims are in condition for allowance.

It is kindly requested that the claims be renumbered appropriately, so that the independent claims and their respective dependent claims are numbered in sequential order and so that the claims belonging to the same claim set are grouped together in the to-be-issued patent.

Various other amendments are made to the claims as shown to provide appropriate antecedent basis, to provide consistent language within and between claims, to more precisely recite the subject matter contained therein, and/or to otherwise place such claims in better form.

II. Conclusion

The present Office Action rejected claims 1-3, 6, 10-12, 14-16, 19, 22-24, and 26-30 as being unpatentable under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Lennen (U.S. Patent No. 6,888,879) in view of Kohli (U.S. Patent No. 6,574,558). In view of the rewriting of certain dependent claims to independent form as explained above and in view of amendments to the other claims, these rejections are rendered moot.

The Director is authorized to charge any additional fees due by way of this Amendment, or credit any overpayment, to our Deposit Account No. 19-1090.

All of the claims remaining in the application are believed to be allowable.
Favorable consideration and a Notice of Allowance are earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,
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